

The Bay Foundation (TBF) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) are partners in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP), one of 28 entities that comprise the National Estuary Program. TBF is a non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters. The SMBRC is a locally-based, non-regulatory state entity which is charged with overseeing and promoting the SMBNEP's Bay Restoration Plan.

## April-May 2016 Edition



### Can Healthy Kelp Forests Help Protect Our Coastline?

The Bay Foundation (TBF) is expanding its research around kelp forests. In addition to the many habitat benefits of kelp forests, studies have shown that kelp forests can dampen wave energy and influence current flow (Jackson 1984, Jackson 1998, Gaylord et al. 2007), possibly protecting adjacent shorelines by decreasing sediment transport and/or dampening waves before they reach the shoreline. With the threat of increased storm action and sea level rise due to climate change, it is essential to quantify the potential of kelp forests to protect our shoreline in Southern California. We plan to measure the effects of kelp forests on wave energy and current flow in our kelp forest restoration sites on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Scientific instruments called Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers and Pressure Sensors will be used to measure wave heights and water current velocities inside and outside the kelp forests, before and after restoration occurs. This will show the direct effects of a kelp forest on water flow as it moves inshore and laterally along shore. This project is a partnership with the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory.

### Students create Climate Change Tool Inventory to Help in BRP Preparation

UCLA students, as part of an honors colloquium course advised by Dr. Alison Lipman, completed a climate change vulnerability assessment project in March for The Bay Foundation. As presented at the recent Governing Board meeting by TBF Watershed Programs Manager Melodie Grubbs, UCLA undergraduate students Wei Dai, Xiaoyi Gu, Fanchen Kong, Hangjian Li, Zhijian Li, and Yuqing Wang created a climate change tool inventory, with 70 geospatial and online tools identified for our region. This project will aid the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) in identifying climate change risks associated with Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) objectives and milestones. The students' inventory is the first major task that will lead to the final SMBNEP product for this grant: a broad, risk-based, climate change vulnerability assessment of our BRP, leading to risk-based action planning (which is beyond the scope of the current grant). The students also specifically assessed BRP objectives involving kelp forests and abalone for climate change vulnerability, investigating the effects of rising water temperatures and increased wave action on these species and their habitats.

## WAC Comments In, Posted, & Being Reviewed for Work Plan

The SMBRC's [Watershed Advisory Council](#) (WAC) convened March 30<sup>th</sup> with a variety of groups in attendance, such as local, state and federal elected officials, public agencies responsible for protecting the resources and water quality of the Bay, the business community, and environmental and other community groups. Attendees heard from SMBRC Chair Enrique Zaldivar and Executive Director Tom Ford about the development of the SMBRC Annual Work Plan and priorities, and then WAC members provided input on each program area in relation to their priorities for the upcoming work plan covering Oct. 1, 2016 through Sept. 30, 2017. WAC members and the general public could also conveniently provide additional input through an online survey.

[Results](#) from the meeting were discussed at the recent Governing Board meeting. The Annual Work Plan will be presented at the June meeting, and links will be included to reference items that reflect WAC suggestions.



David Colgan/UCLA

## UCLA Students Head into Tide Pools for El Niño Effects Research

As part of their Senior Practicum program, a group of very dedicated students from the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability have been spending time in the tide pools, working hands-on to inform a part of TBF's kelp restoration work. This past year's El Niño and warm water events presented an interesting opportunity for the students to study the effects of El Niño on intertidal zones, providing TBF valuable research and management recommendations. Read all about one of the students' tide pool outings [HERE](#). (Photo by David Colgan/UCLA)

## TBF Out n' About around Earth Day

Starting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, TBF participated in a variety of events from the ocean to downtown. TBF joined Green LMU, LMU Recycling and others to celebrate Earth Week on the school's regular Third Thursday gathering. On Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, TBF joined a few select groups invited to Google's Venice office to present information at their Earth Day Fair. The fair included a few premier vendors, lunchtime music and Google employees who can't help but be interested in the Bay, which is blocks from their office. Heading downtown, TBF Watershed Programs Coordinator Rod Abbott spoke to a full room at the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) during their 9<sup>th</sup> Spring Green Expo, and guided an attentive group through the process of rain garden design, installation and monitoring, sharing four Culver City case studies that were the result of a MWD grant to TBF. And to round up over a week of activities, on April 30<sup>th</sup>, TBF staff hosted a service day for Washington University's Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement with a kayak cleanup in Marina del Rey harbor and invasive weed removal at LAX Dunes.



TBF's Georgia Tunioli at Google Earth Day Fair.



TBF's Rod Abbott speaking at MWD Spring Green Expo.

## Join TBF Outside

TBF offers regular volunteer opportunities at these locations:

- Culver City Rain Garden
- LAX Dunes
- Malibu Lagoon
- Stone Canyon Creek

Please check <http://www.santamonicabay.org/events/> for dates, times, brief descriptions, and who to contact.

TBF also works with corporations and other organizations for group volunteer days. Please contact Rod Abbott ([rabbott@santamonicabay.org](mailto:rabbott@santamonicabay.org)) if you'd like to plan such an event.

## In The News

A thorough interview with Tom Ford appeared in the most recent issue of [The Planning Report](#), with focus on wastewater management, Ballona Wetlands, and addressing climate change.

[Hakai Magazine](#), which explores science, society and the environment from a coastal perspective, shared the kelp restoration project with its internationally-focused readership.

[Santa Monica Mirror](#) published information on the local Dockwalker volunteer training opportunities, in preparation for boating season.



Red-legged frog. Photo from The Acorn

The status of the red-legged frog in the Santa Monica Mountains got an update by the [Santa Monica Daily Press](#), as well as by [The Acorn](#).



The *Santa Monica Daily Press* referenced the *State of the Bay 2015 Report*, quoting both Tom Ford and Guangyu Wang twice: the [first story](#) reported on Santa Monica's sea level rise planning meeting, and the [second story](#) discussed water conservation and expanding options for water recycling.

[Whole Life Times](#) did a story on the *State of the Bay 2015 Report*, as part of their April "Earth Month" issue.

TBF appeared in The Campus (Playa Vista) April eNews, and in LMU's [Loyolan](#) as part of Earth Week.

## Social Media IS Important, Fun and Connects Us!

If you're a social media maven or even a dabbler, we ask that you engage, share and use our Social Media avenues.

Facebook: ["Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation"](#)

Twitter: [@SMBRF](#)

Instagram: [@TheBayFoundation](#)

YouTube: ["The Bay Foundation"](#)

\*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow us.  
Watch our Facebook page for "Restaurant Thursdays"

And did you know you can find a Clean Bay Restaurant certified by The Bay Foundation on our site?  
Check out your local DINING options at <http://www.santamonicabay.org/learn/our-work/clean-bay-restaurants/>

## TBF INSTAGRAM PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Pictures we love on Instagram that tag [@thebayfoundation](#)!



## 2016 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

The SMBRC Governing Board meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the even-numbered months from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club.

The remaining 2016 meeting dates are:

- June 16
- August 18
- October 20
- December 15

The Del Rey Yacht Club is located at 13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292.

For additional information concerning any SMBRC Governing Board meeting, please contact Scott Valor at 808-631-6118 or by e-mail at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org). You may also visit the SMBRC website at [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov).

## Check Out Our Websites

Please check out the SMBRC website: [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov). To streamline access to the Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the website features only information that is most critical to following the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC's bodies.

The Bay Foundation's website can be viewed at [www.santamonicabay.org](http://www.santamonicabay.org). It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Scott Valor at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org) or Julie Du Brow at [jdubrow@santamonicabay.org](mailto:jdubrow@santamonicabay.org).